

# Reading is



Once upon a time in a cold snowy land, lived many children who wished for warm sunny days full of fun and adventure. One day when the children were on the playground at school the wind started to blow in circles around them. The snow started rising off the ground taking on a mysterious shape. The children gathered closely together and watched. Different color lights started flashing in the cloud of snow and they heard “Thump – thump, thump - thump”, the sound grew louder and louder, the snow swirled faster and faster. All of a sudden, the snow cloud stopped spinning, the lights quit flashing and the thumping sound ended. With eyes wide open the children looked at what was on the ground in front of them.

Right there, in the middle of their playground, sat a very big, shiny black hat with a wide brim. When a few of the children stepped toward the hat to look inside, the hat started to rock back and forth. Everyone stopped! Something white and fuzzy started to rise out of the hat. Soon the children could see two long fuzzy ears! Up POPPED the largest white rabbit the children have ever seen! The rabbit stayed in the hat and looked at the faces of all the children. Their noses and cheeks were red from the cold winter day. They were bundled up in heavy coats, boots and mittens.

The rabbit smiled, reached down in the big black hat and pulled out a shiny red book. He said, “This is your magic ticket.” The children didn’t understand, their ticket to what they wanted to know. The rabbit explained, “You wished for a warm sunny day full of fun and adventure. All you have to do is read \_\_\_\_\_ hours from the Escanaba Public Library and you will be given days of adventure at the Upper Peninsula State Fair! You will be given a beautiful ribbon to use as a book marker, a coupon for a free soft drink and a dollar off the price of a ride wristband so you can go on as many rides as you want!”

The rabbit’s whiskers twitched, his right ear flopped over his eye and knew he had made his new friends very happy. As the snow began again to swirl around the big black hat, the rabbit waved good-bye and as he disappeared in the cloud of snow the children could hear him say, **“See you in August at the U.P. State Fair!”**

